

RESPECT

COOPERATION



COMMUNICATION

COMMUNITY

UNDERSTANDING THE
RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
OF OUR YOUTH

Acknowledgements

The idea for the Respect Manual came out of an informal meeting between several Rye parents, police and merchants to resolve some of the misunderstandings that had developed between different groups about what constituted appropriate teen behavior. Writing the manual was a collaborative effort involving many different groups; Rye Police, Rye YMCA, Purchase Street merchants, Rye parents, Rye Recreation and Rye Youth Council, particularly the Youth Advocates. We would like to thank each of them for their hard work and dedication to this effort. Most importantly, we would like to thank the teens who read and reread the manual, giving constant feedback and constructive input at every stage.

We would also like to acknowledge the Kirkland, Washington Youth Council and the Kirkland Police Department, whose partnership on a similar effort formed the foundation for our Respect Manual. Finally, we want to express our gratitude to Assemblyman George Latimer, who secured funding to cover our printing and distribution costs and whose support for the manual has been unceasing.

Disclaimer

The photos depicted in this publication are for illustration purposes only.

Rights and Responsibilities

All groups in our community—teens, parents, merchants and police—share common rights and responsibilities. Sometimes these are addressed by specific laws, such as those governing drinking or driving. But often, rights and responsibilities are not enshrined in law but simply become generally accepted rules of behavior based on commonly shared values and respect for others. Over time, laws can change, such as those governing arrests or laws covering appropriate searches. What doesn't change over time is the basic responsibility of all groups in a community to respect one another and act in a way that best balances the needs of each group against the obligation not to infringe upon the rights of others.

It is not the intent of this manual to lay out every single law that applies to teenagers, parents or police. Not only would this make for a very boring read but it would also be a self-defeating exercise. Instead, the intent is to state guidelines for behavior that not only conform to the letter of the law, but more importantly, to the spirit of the law.

Some guidelines about rights and responsibilities worth noting for each group are listed on the following pages. The common thread running through all of them is the *right of all groups to be treated with respect and courtesy and the responsibility to treat others the same way.*

Good judgment and common sense should be just as important in guiding our behavior as strict compliance with the law. All groups in the community—teens, parents, police and merchants—should understand the rationale underlying any laws that pertain to them. If they don't understand, they have the right to ask. But equally important, their behavior should be governed by an awareness of and respect for the rights of others.



"WHEN I WAS 5 EVERYONE TOLD ME TO BE A BIG BOY.
WHEN I WAS 10 THEY TOLD ME I SHOULD BE MORE MATURE.
NOW THEY SAY IT'S TIME TO START ACTING LIKE AN ADULT.
AT THIS RATE, I'LL BE ELIGIBLE FOR SOCIAL SECURITY
BEFORE I GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL!"

Youth Rights and Responsibilities

1. Teenagers have the right to be treated fairly and equally and to be protected by the law.
2. Teenagers have the responsibility to learn and understand the laws that pertain to them.
3. Teenagers have the right to dress and appear as they please and the right to gather in groups as long as they don't break any laws and they don't interfere with the rights of others.
4. Teenagers have the responsibility to take care of their friends, getting medical attention immediately if a friend is injured, intoxicated or ill.
5. Teenagers have the right to be treated with respect and courtesy and the responsibility to treat others the same way.

Parent Rights and Responsibilities



1. Parents have a responsibility to know where their children are at all times.
2. Parents have a responsibility to know their children's friends and contact parents of their children's friends.
3. Parents have the responsibility to enforce curfews.
4. Parents have the right to learn about laws that pertain to teens and to ask about interactions between teens and the police.
5. Parents have a responsibility to do all that is necessary to ensure their children's health and safety.

Police Rights and Responsibilities

1. Police have the right to protect themselves and the responsibility to protect others.



2. Police have the right to be treated with respect and courtesy and the responsibility to treat others the same way.

3. Police have the responsibility to investigate crimes and suspicious behavior, respond to complaints and enforce the law.
4. Police have the right to have informal interactions with teens, parents and merchants in an effort to better know their community and deter crime.

Merchant Rights and Responsibilities

1. Merchants have the right to protect their property, including their storefronts.
2. Merchants have the right to be treated with respect and courtesy and the responsibility to treat others the same way.
3. Merchants have the right to stop disruptive behavior (e.g. unruly crowds, blocking doorways, vandalism).
4. Merchants have the responsibility to protect the rights of their customers.



between teens and police

Tips for communicating

1. Respect goes both ways. Treat others the same way you would like to be treated. When dealing with teens, police should be reassuring and informative whenever possible. Teens should understand that the police are doing their jobs and appreciate their cooperation.

2. Understand that the police may be on guard because they do not know who you are. Due to the nature of their job, police are normally on guard and youth may feel intimidated when being approached by the police even if they are innocent of any wrongdoing.



3. If stopped by the police, youth should stay where they are until an officer tells them they can leave. Never run away from the police.

4. If you are giving information, be truthful.

5. Keep your hands visible and try not to make any quick movements while being approached or interviewed by the police.

6. If you feel that you have been mistreated by an officer try to think through why you feel this way. Did you do or say anything that might have been misinterpreted? Did the police respond to any real or imagined threat when they were dealing with you? If you still feel that you have a complaint then call or go to the Police Department and ask to speak with the officer's supervisor because this may clear up the situation immediately.

Formal Complaints

If you wish to pursue a formal complaint, tell the supervisor that you would like your complaint forwarded to the command staff of the department. Information you will need to present at the time of the complaint is the date, time and place of the incident, and name and/or description of the officer.

You will also be asked to provide your name, address, telephone number, names of witnesses and a detailed summary of the incident in the form of a sworn statement. You may be called and interviewed by a supervisor assigned to investigate the complaint. At the conclusion of the investigation, you will be notified of the results.



between parents and police

1. Understand that the police have your children's safety as their first priority. If your child has been stopped or taken to the police station, there is a reason for it.
2. There are two sides to every interaction between youth and police. Listen to your child but also listen to the police. It is critically important to get the full picture of what happened.
3. Be aware that the police are required by law to respond to merchants and property owners' complaints about youth and their behavior. While your child may have done nothing illegal, the size of the group or group dynamics may have contributed to an awkward or threatening situation, prompting the police to ask teens to move somewhere else.
4. If you are present when your child is stopped or questioned by the police, do not interfere. Allow the police officers to do their jobs. You will have the opportunity to ask questions or voice your concerns either when the situation is resolved or at police headquarters. If you are not present, you may be notified by the police and requested to come to police headquarters, or your child will be given an opportunity to call you.
5. Give the officer or the supervisor handling the incident the opportunity to explain what happened and why the police took the action they did.

In situations involving juveniles, the Youth Officer will schedule a meeting with the involved youth and his or her parents. That meeting will provide an opportunity to ask questions and voice your concerns in a calm setting. If you are still dissatisfied with the handling of the situation, you have the option of filing a formal complaint.

Hanging Out

Teens need to explore their personalities, hang out with their friends and have fun! Doing these things at home is sometimes restrictive or boring, so naturally, they look for other places such as parks, Purchase Street or parking lots. Teens have a right to hang out but sometimes, if groups become too large or disruptive, Rye residents, merchants (or their customers) may ask the police to enforce some order.



1. Use your judgment here and trust your common sense. Hanging out at Starbuck's with a few friends is absolutely fine—but what if your group expands to 20 or 30? Hanging around the village green is great—but what if you start throwing a football around and hitting cars? Rye merchants want your business and parents love the easy accessibility to town—but you do need to think about all members of the community.
2. Here are some tips as to why the police will sometimes ask you to leave an area:
 - Youths – or adults, for that matter – may be asked to leave an area, such as a parking lot, a park, a playground, or even Purchase Street. This is generally for either of two reasons; a complaint has been made about the group's behavior (they are being disorderly, littering, obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic, damaging property, creating a nuisance, etc.), or a police officer has observed such behavior and believes it requires his or her intervention.¹
 - Sometimes, this action is taken to try to prevent the situation from escalating into one that will result in dangerous or criminal conduct, or because such conduct has taken place nearby (i.e., a fight has broken out or groups of people are being disorderly in the area.)
3. If you have a question about why you are being asked to move, comply with the request and then ask the question. You have a right to know but you also have a responsibility to behave in a way that respects the rights of others. (For example dressing in non traditional clothes is certainly within your rights but shouting profanities or using loud and abusive language with your friends impinges upon others' rights to enjoy a quiet meal or a walk through town.)

Parties

Things to keep in mind if you are a teen attending a party and the police arrive:

1. Police response is normally complaint driven, meaning someone either called to complain about noise, drinking or some other nuisance.



2. In most cases, entrance into the residence by the responding officers is voluntary on the part of the resident unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. someone is in danger inside). It is important for teens to remember that the police are interested in safety first, and safety factors outweigh certain rights.
3. **The safety of your friends should come before your fear of getting in trouble.** If someone is intoxicated or injured or the party is out of control, call the police for help. Never leave an intoxicated person alone to “sleep it off”. If a friend needs medical attention, get it without delay; alcohol poisoning – or what may appear to be a minor injury to an intoxicated person – may be far more serious than it appears. The consequences of not calling for help can be far more severe than the consequences of breaking a law. **Never forget that the memory of a trip to the police station will fade in time; the memory of a friend who died will not!**
4. Officers have some discretion in these situations, and each officer is different. If you are directed to leave, make sure you do it safely (go with sober drivers, and don’t allow intoxicated people to drive).
5. If you are caught drinking at a party, your parents or guardian(s) can be called to come get you.
6. If you are under twenty-one, you may be issued a summons for ‘Possession of Alcohol’.
7. Be cooperative. Underage drinking is illegal. **Remember the police don’t make the laws but it is their job to enforce them.**

Note to Parents....

Under New York State Law, parents, hosts and property owners can be held civilly liable in many situations involving intoxicated youth;

- if someone, particularly a minor, is injured on their property
- if a minor dies as a result of drinking on their property
- if an underage person gets into a fight, falls and hurts themselves or is sexually assaulted on their property especially if the alcoholic beverages were obtained on their property
- if a neighbor's property is damaged by minors attending a party at your home or apartment
- if an underage person who was drinking on your property, leaves your property, and is involved in a motor vehicle accident, causes injury to themselves or others



A person who provides alcohol to a person under twenty-one can be criminally charged with Unlawfully Dealing with a Minor, a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in prison or a fine of up to \$500.

Even when parents or guardians are not at home, they can still be held civilly liable for damages arising from underage drinking in their home. If a nanny, housekeeper or any other childcare provider is present at the time, they can be held criminally liable.

ALCOHOL POISONING

Be aware of the critical signs of alcohol poisoning:

- Mental confusion, stupor, coma or a person can't be roused
- Vomiting and/or seizures
- Slow breathing (<8 breaths/minute) or irregular breathing (10 seconds or more between breaths)
- Hypothermia, bluish skin color or paleness

What do I do if someone has alcohol poisoning?

- You don't need to wait for all the symptoms to appear!
- If a person is vomiting, make sure you put them on their side and NOT on their backs
- If someone has passed out, they could die without help
- NEVER leave a person in distress ALONE- STAY with them and CALL 911

Don't be afraid of getting into trouble if alcohol is involved. Your friends could die.

This excerpt is reprinted with permission from John Brick, PHD, INTOXIKON INTERNATIONAL

“How Does Alcohol Kill?”

Alcohol can cause death directly by acting on those brain areas that control consciousness, respiration and heart rate. As a central nervous system depressant, alcohol can “turn off” these vital brain areas, resulting first in coma and then death.

In many cases, drinking too much alcohol will make you sick and you will stop drinking. Contrary to folk tales, getting sick is not from mixing drinks or drinking on an empty stomach, it is because specialized poison control cells in your brain detect danger -- too much alcohol -- and send a signal to your stomach to vomit. This is the brain's way of dealing with poisoning. Vomiting is an attempt to eliminate any unabsorbed alcohol. The logic is, if you can prevent any alcohol that's still in the stomach from getting into the blood supply, it may save your life. Eating before you drink will slow down the speed of intoxication but it is no guarantee that you won't get sick or die if you consume enough alcohol.

Whereas some people only vomit when they have consumed too much alcohol, other people just fall asleep (with or without vomiting) after they have consumed too much alcohol. In these people, death can follow in one of two ways: you may fall into a deep sleep and vomit while sleeping. What's the result? You choke on your own vomit because you are too intoxicated to wake up and clear out your airway. In other instances, you simply fall asleep and never wake up, because the concentration of alcohol is so high that the areas of your brain controlling life functions are so depressed that they stop functioning and so do you.”²

Traffic Stops

Things to keep in mind if you are stopped by a police officer while driving:

1. Relax! Don't get out of your vehicle. In most cases the officer will tell you why they stopped you. If they do not, and you don't know why you were stopped, ask politely and provide the officer with the paperwork they request. It is your responsibility as the driver of the vehicle to make sure that your vehicle meets all equipment requirements, that you have a current and valid driver's license, insurance and registration.
2. Officers generally do not know your age, race or sex when you are stopped at night. *(Statistically, vehicle stops are the most dangerous part of a police officer's job; the officer stopping the vehicle does not know if they are stopping a mere traffic violator, a wanted person, or someone in flight from the commission of a serious crime.)* Additional officers routinely respond to stops to make sure everything is all right. It is not unusual to see two or three patrol cars at a normal traffic stop.
3. If you are stopped late at night or there are several people in your vehicle, expect the officer to be on guard and seem extra cautious even though you may not even realize why you were stopped. Turn on your car's interior light. Keep your hands where the officer can see them. Officers understand that you will most likely need to get into your glove compartment, wallet, purse or console to retrieve the appropriate paperwork. Wait until the officer asks for these items before reaching for them. **Try to remember that the officer has no idea who you are or what your intentions are.**
4. If you are driving the vehicle, or you are a passenger in violation of traffic laws (i.e. not wearing a seatbelt) then you are required to provide identification.
5. If you are issued a ticket and feel that there were extenuating circumstances, then the circumstances need to be explained in court. If you feel you did not commit the violation, then the ticket needs to be contested in court. There are directions on the back of the ticket that describe the process for doing this. If you are unsure how to do it, ask the officer. It is not to your advantage to argue with the officer at the time of the stop, and you are not admitting guilt by accepting the ticket.
6. Traffic laws are governed by "strict liability". This means that even though you did not mean to do something, or did not know it was

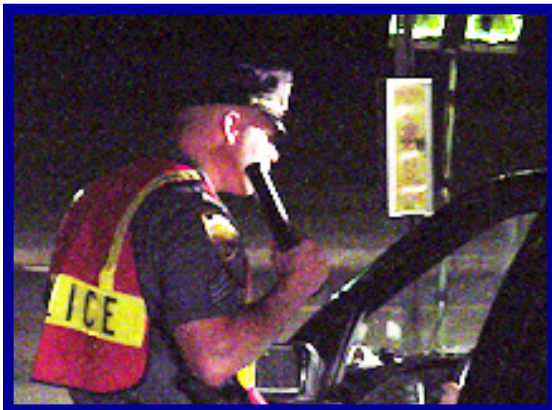
illegal, you are still responsible. There are many violations that can lead to issuance of a summons: talking on a hand held cell phone; not wearing a seatbelt; equipment violations such as defective lights or tinted windows; loud mufflers; and unauthorized lights, such as blue or red lights attached to the car's windshield wipers. If you are unsure as to whether an item of equipment on your car is legal or not, ask a police officer, or stop by Police Headquarters for advice.

7. If you are searched or arrested as a result of a "routine stop", that means the officer had some reason to suspect a crime. An officer can place you under arrest upon seeing an open container of alcohol in the vehicle, observing signs of intoxication, or smelling marijuana in the vehicle. Once you are arrested from a vehicle, you and your vehicle may be searched without a warrant.

Searches

Things to remember if an officer or someone at school asks to search you or your belongings (including vehicles):

1. Rules that allow searches will be dictated by where you are. If you are on school grounds school employees simply need reasonable grounds in order to search you or your locker.³ Items in your locker are subject to search because the locker belongs to the school. Remember that the school is responsible for your safety while you are there. Do not take items that may be confused as weapons or illegal substances to school.
2. Police officers need to have permission, reasonable suspicion that there is a weapon, contraband or evidence of a crime, or some extenuating circumstance in order to search you.



Arrests

Things to keep in mind if you are placed under arrest:



1. All laws that apply to adults also apply to youth; however, there are laws that apply strictly to youth, such as Possession of Alcohol by a minor. The only difference between youth and adult law is the trial and punishment phase.

2. If you are age 12 or older the police can question you without your parents present. The only person you have the right to have with you is an attorney.
3. At some reasonable point the officer will call or allow you to call your parents. You do not have to call your parents, but the officer is required to contact them to advise them of the situation if you are under the age of 16.



New York State Driving Laws

New York State implemented a “Graduated Licensing Law” effective September 1, 2003. The restrictions on junior drivers apply to both New York State residents and out of state drivers under the age of 18. Junior drivers are those who have a driver’s license or learner’s permit of Class DJ or Class MJ.

A junior driver cannot operate a vehicle that has more than two passengers who are under the age of 21 unless a parent, guardian, or a driving instructor also rides in the vehicle. There is an exception to this rule if the passengers are immediate family members.

When the law requires supervision of the junior driver, only the supervising driver can ride in the front seat. The supervising driver must be 21 years of age or older and must have a valid drivers license. All passengers that ride with a junior driver must use the correct safety restraints (seat belts or child safety seats).

The Department of Motor Vehicles will issue a limited-use junior license to a junior driver who passes a road test during the first six months after the learner’s permit was issued. A limited-use junior license allows the junior driver to drive without supervision during specific hours of the day and within specific geographical boundaries. A supervising driver must supervise the junior driver at all other times. Six months after the learner’s permit of the driver was issued, the Department of Motor Vehicles will issue a normal junior license.

When a junior driver passes a road test more than six months after the learner’s permit was issued, the Department of Motor Vehicles issues a normal junior license.

Statistics You Should Know

Teens account for 14% of all deaths due to motor vehicle accidents.

Most teen driver deaths due to motor vehicle accidents occur on weekends .

Of teen drivers fatally injured in automobiles, more than 1/3 died in speed related accidents.

Teen habits of staying up late puts them at high risk of having an automobile accident due to drowsiness.

Teens make up 7% of licensed drivers, but suffer 14% of fatalities and 20% of all reported accidents.

Drinking, drugs and driving— things you should know:

- Anyone under 21 driving may be arrested for DWI if they have a Blood Alcohol Level of more than .02% (a much lower standard than .08% for those over 21), or if a police officer's observations indicate that they are intoxicated.⁴



- If you are suspected of driving while “high”, there is no limit you need to reach to be charged with “Driving with Ability Impaired by Drugs”. All you need is to have marijuana in your system. Remember that marijuana and other drugs can remain in your system for several weeks after use.



- If police observe physical signs and symptoms of impairment, they can conduct field sobriety tests at the scene and follow up with a urine test.



**Don't
Drink
and
Drive**

TEENS, YOUNG ADULTS AND DATING VIOLENCE

MYTH:

TEENS DO NOT EXPERIENCE DATING VIOLENCE, IT IS AN ADULT PROBLEM (BETWEEN MOTHERS AND FATHERS).

FACT:

BY THE AGE OF 20, ONE-THIRD OF ALL YOUNG WOMEN WILL EXPERIENCE DATING VIOLENCE.

Dating violence is more than just arguing or fighting.⁵ Dating violence is a pattern of controlling behaviors that one partner uses to get power over the other, including:



- **any** kind of physical violence or threat of physical violence to get control;
- emotional or mental abuse, such as playing mind games, making you feel crazy, or constantly putting you down or criticizing you;
- sexual abuse, including making you do anything you don't want to, refusing to have safe sex, or making you feel bad about yourself sexually.

Teens who abuse their girlfriends or boyfriends do the same things that adults who abuse their partners do. Teen dating violence is just as serious as adult domestic violence.

Teens are seriously at risk for dating violence. Research shows that physical or sexual abuse is a part of 1 in 3 high school relationships. In 95% of abusive relationships, men abuse women. However, young women can be violent, and young men can also be victims. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans teens are just as at risk for abuse in their relationships as anyone else.

Abusive relationships have good times and bad times. Part of what makes dating violence so confusing and painful is that there is love mixed with the abuse. This can make it hard to tell if you are really being abused.

Here are some good questions to ask yourself

Does your boyfriend or girlfriend:

- act like Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, with such sudden and extreme moods he seems like two different people?
- make fun of you, put you down, or embarrass you in front of other people?
- have a history of bad relationships or past violence, always blame his/her problems on other people, or blame you for "making" him/her treat you badly?
- try to get you drunk, high or messed up or try to get you alone when you don't want to be?
- try to control you — by being bossy, not taking your opinion seriously, making all of the decisions about who you see, what you wear, what you do, etc. ?
- talk negatively about people in sexual ways or talk about sex like it's a game or a contest?

Do you:

- feel less confident about yourself when you're with him/her?
- feel scared or worried about doing or saying "the wrong thing"?
- find yourself changing your behavior out of fear or to avoid a fight?

Have you been told by people you trust that they're worried about your safety?

Unfortunately, without help, the violence will only get worse. If you think you might be in an abusive relationship, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233.

For additional information, try the following sites;

Love Doesn't Have to Hurt American Psychological Association website on teen dating violence <http://www.apa.org/pi/pii/teen/contents.html>

In the Mix: Twisted Love. PBS show on dating violence with Neve Campbell <http://www.pbs.org/>



(Footnotes)

¹ *Persons who obstruct vehicular or pedestrian traffic and refuse a lawful order of a police officer to move may, under certain circumstances, be subject to arrest for Disorderly Conduct, a violation of the New York State Penal Law.*

² "Alcohol Poisoning" by John Brick, PHD., Intoxikon International, Alcohol and Drug Studies: Research and Educational Consulting, Intoxikon@aol.com

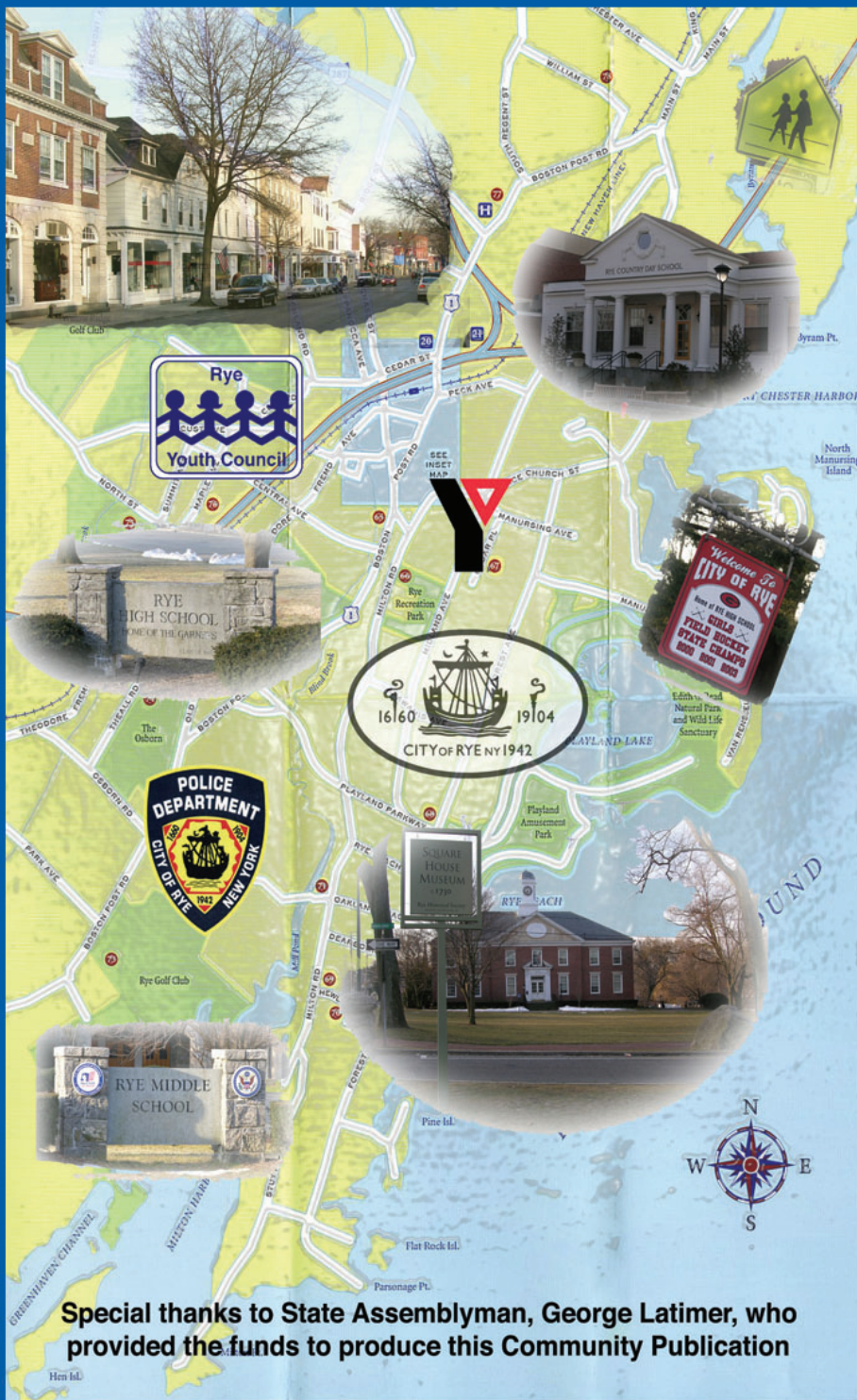
³ *Under ordinary circumstances, a search of a student by a teacher or other school official will be justified at its inception when there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school.*

⁴ *Testing begins with observations of physical signs and symptoms, followed by a field sobriety test and a urine test. Marijuana and other drugs are tested via urine or blood tests.*

⁵ *Much of information in this section is from the National Domestic Violence Hotline <http://ndvh.org/>*

RESOURCE INFORMATION

AIDS Related Community Services.....	345-8888
Alcoholics Anonymous.....	212-647-1680
Alcoholism Clinic, <i>St. Vincent's Westchester</i>	967-6500 x 5261
Alateen	212-941-0094
Bereavement Center of Westchester	961-2818
Center Lane (<i>Gay / Lesbian / Transgender Services</i>)	948-1042
Center for Preventive Psychiatry	949-7680
Child Abuse Prevention Center	997-2742
Child Protective Services.....	995-2099
Coalition for Family Justice.....	591-5753
Emergency Police and Fire	911
Family and Community Services	961-4773
Four Winds Hospital (Mental Health).....	763-8151
Human Rights Commission (Rye)	967-5400
Lawyer Referral Services	761-5151
Legal Aid Society	286-3400
Mobile Crisis Team - Westchester Medical.....	493-7075
Help line.....	212-532-2400
Suicide/Crisis Prevention Hotline	347-6400
My Sisters Place (Domestic Violence/Date Abuse)	800-298-7233
Narcotics Anonymous.....	212-929-6262
Northern Westchester Shelter	747-0828
Open Door Family Medical Center	941-1263
Rye City Hall.....	967-7404
Rye Police Non-Emergency	967-1234
Rye Recreation Center	967-2535
Rye YMCA	967-6363
Rye Youth Council	967-3838
Student Advocacy.....	347-7039
The Counseling Center.....	793-3388
The Guidance Center	636-4440
Westchester/Putnam Legal Services.....	949-1305



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